

RIO GRANDE TEXAS



National Park Service

Project Name: Rio Grande Watershed Landscape Conservation

Project Type:

- Large Landscapes
- Restoration (Stream, Riparian, Wetland, and Grassland)

Project Description: The Rio Grande flows through a number of rare ecosystems, including sky islands and desert grasslands. The river and associated watersheds provide important habitat for the endangered Rio Grande silvery minnow, a variety of migratory bird species, and rare and endemic plants and wildlife.

This project provides leadership to the Big Bend Conservation Cooperative to implement conservation activities, including the management of riparian, aquatic, and grassland ecosystems; endangered species recovery; and climate change planning. The project also assists in the development of an adaptive management framework for landscape conservation. Habitat and species restoration projects, research and monitoring, and building a diverse and collaborative conservation partnership all contribute to the success of this bi-national effort.

Lead Federal Agencies:

- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- National Park Service
- U.S. Geological Survey
- Bureau of Reclamation
- International Boundary and Water Commission

Non-Federal Partners:

- Comisión Nacional de Areas Naturales Protegidas
- Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
- Several other U.S. and Mexico partners, including non-profit organizations, state and national agencies, universities, and local governments

Outcomes for 2012:

- Conduct habitat and water quality assessments
- Continue to support recovery of the endangered Rio Grande silvery minnow
- Conduct stakeholder meetings
- Restore 5,000 acres of grasslands, 40 acres of wetland, and 20 acres of riparian habitat
- Remove 200 acres of invasive species